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(72) **Inventors; and**
(75) **Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ROBERTSON, Albert, James [CA/CA]; Box 1, Groupsite 602, R.R.6, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3J9 (CA). GUSTA, Lawrence, Victor [CA/CA]; 515 Copland Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7H 2Z4 (CA). WU, Guohai [CA/CA]; 2103 Kenderdine Road, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 4A9 (CA).**

(74) **Agents:** GALE, Edwin, J. et al.; Kirby Eades Gale Baker, Box 3432, Station D., Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6N9 (CA).

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S THEREFOR

(57) Abstract: Plant stresses such as pest infestations, disease, drought, flood, and excessive temperatures can lead to significant losses of crops each year. There is a continuing need to develop novel plant varieties that are less susceptible to damage or loss by such stresses. The present invention provides for the isolation, characterization and use of an entirely novel class of plant genes, generally designated *ROB5*. Transgenic plants expressing *ROB5* can show a dramatic improvement in their capacity to tolerate a variety of stress conditions. Moreover, *ROB5* expression can further lead to marked increases in plant growth rates and plant vigor. The present invention encompasses all such *ROB5* genes and peptides encoded thereby, plants expressing corresponding *ROB5* constructs, and plant products thereof.

(57) Abstract: Plant stresses such as pest infestations, disease, drought, flood, and excessive temperatures can lead to significant losses of crops each year. There is a continuing need to develop novel plant varieties that are less susceptible to damage or loss by such stresses. The present invention provides for the isolation, characterization and use of an entirely novel class of plant genes, generally designated *ROB5*. Transgenic plants expressing *ROB5* can show a dramatic improvement in their capacity to tolerate a variety of stress conditions. Moreover, *ROB5* expression can further lead to marked increases in plant growth rates and plant vigor. The present invention encompasses all such *ROB5* genes and peptides encoded thereby, plants expressing corresponding *ROB5* constructs, and plant products thereof.

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